

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01505 161502Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 DOE-11 SOE-02 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6388

UNCLAS BOGOTA 1505

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BENC, CO

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: GAS PIPELINE

REF: STATE 28798

1. THE GAS PIPELINE RECENTLY COMPLETED FROM THE GUAJIRA TO BARRANQUILLA AND SOON TO BE OPENED TO CARTAGENA IS WELL KNOWN TO USDOC. THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASES OF THE PROJECT ARE STILL IN THE IDEA STAGE, ALTHOUGH A NEW COMPANY HAS BEEN FORMED TO PROMOTE THE BUILDING OF A GAS PIPELINE FROM JOBO TABLON TO MEDELLIN, CALI, AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO BOGOTA. THE NEW COMPANY, PROMOTORA DEL GASEODUCTO DE OCCIDENTE, GASOCCIDENTE, IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING SOME MARKETING STUDIES AFTER WHICH PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT. PROTEXA, THE MEXICAN FIRM THAT BUILT THE GUAJIRA-CARTAGENA PIPELINE, HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN THE PROJECT BY CONTACTING GASOCCIDENTE.

2. GAS RESERVES IN THE GUAJIRA ARE CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT 3.4 TRILLION CF BUT AS THE NEW TEXACO FIND OFF CARTAGENA, WHICH TESTS AT 40 MCFD PRODUCTION, IS FURTHER TESTED, AND AS ADDITIONAL WELLS ARE DRILLED IN THIS AREA, THE RESERVE ESTIMATES COULD INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY. THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PIPELINE INTERCONNECTING MOST THE COUNTRY WILL DEPEND ON THESE ADDITIONAL TESTS AND SUBSEQUENT DISCOVERIES, AS WELL AS OTHER FACTORS,
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SO IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE PROBABILITY THAT THE PIPELINE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED. THE PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY PROBABLY WILL NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1980. U.S. COMPANIES INTERESTED IN COMPETING FOR THE STUDY PHASE SHOULD CONTACT DR. JORGE ZULETA, GASOCCIDENTE, MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA.

3. CONSUMPTION FIGURES REPORTED IN THE ARTICLE PROBABLY

REFER TO PLANNED USES, INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL AND SUB-
STITUTION PROJECTS WHICH ARE IN PLANNING AND PROMOTIONAL
STAGES BUT ARE NOT YET BEING DEVELOPED. IF ALL PROJECTS
PLANNED GET OFF GROUND ON SCHEDULE CONSUMPTION COULD REACH
450 MILLION CUBIC FEET A DAY BY 1982, 310 MILLION CUBIC FEET
A DAY OF WHICH WOULD BE CONSUMED ON THE NORTH COAST, MOSTLY
IN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE LNG PLANT, AMMONIA, AND
ELECTRICITY GENERATING.
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Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: GAS PIPELINE
TAGS: BENC, CO
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